

Art Unit: \*\*\*

CLMPTO

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VA

Claim 1 is canceled.

*Rule 11b 21* (Amended) A method of operating an atmospheric pressure plasma source comprising the steps of:

*SA 10/10/02*  
coupling an r.f. power supply through a coaxial transmission line to a suitably designed tuning network;

*B1*  
coupling said network to a small plasma chamber having suitable electrodes located within;

coupling a gas manifold that provides a suitable mixture of oxygen and a noble gas to said small plasma chamber; and,

utilizing the portion of the plasma that spills out of the small chamber for localized sterilization purposes, including cavities, small access holes, and other hard-to-reach places.

Claims 3 & 4 are canceled.

*Rule 11b 52* (New) The method according to Claim <sup>2</sup>1 including the further step of providing a magnetic field in the plasma region for increasing the ionization ratio.